

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 187 without my signature.

This bill alters the existing process for the adoption of drinking water standards by the Department of Health Services (DHS). Although I support the intent of SB 187 to protect the public's drinking water supply, the bill ignores the deliberative scientific process that must be part of the development of any drinking water standard.

A maximum contaminant level (MCL) is an enforceable regulatory standard under the Safe Drinking Water Act and must be complied with by public water systems. Current law requires DHS, while placing primary emphasis on the protection of public health, to establish an MCL at a level as close to the theoretical public health goal as is technically and economically feasible. This bill ignores the necessity to consider economic and technological feasibility when adopting an enforceable drinking water standard.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger